

EPI INVESTIGATOR

The Alachua County Health Department

Spring 2009



“Improving Public Health in Our Community Through Cooperation”

**Alachua County
Health Department**
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Editor

Sheila Griffis

Requirement for Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap) for entry and attendance in 7th Grade

By: Sherry Windham, HSPM,

The Florida Department of Health Bureau of Immunization would like to remind all immunization partners about the upcoming school immunization requirement effective for the 2009/2010 school year for students entering 7th grade.

Effective School Year 2009/2010

Students entering, repeating or transferring into 7th grade will need to provide documentation for the Tdap vaccine. This requirement is in addition to the previous immunization requirements that are grade-appropriate.

Students who received a dose of Td vaccine 2 to 5 years prior to entering 7th grade should be given a Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) and immunized at the appropriate time. The timeline for the TME must be no longer than 5 years from the last tetanus diphtheria containing vaccine. **Please note: that a dose of Tdap can be given within 2 years of receiving a dose of Td vaccine, regardless of a child's TME status, when there is a risk of exposure to Pertussis.**

The Tdap can be administered to students 10 years of age and above if prior Td booster was given at least 2 years ago. Recommendations for provision of the Tdap vaccine are in accordance with the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).

For further information you may contact the Alachua County Health Dept. /Gainesville Immunizations at: 352-334-7900.

World TB Day 2009

By: Gail Beard, RN

On March 24, 1882, Dr. Robert Koch announced the discovery of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, the bacteria that cause tuberculosis (TB). During this time, TB killed one out of every seven people living in the United States and Europe. Dr. Koch's discovery was the most important step taken toward the control and elimination of this deadly disease.

World TB Day isn't a celebration but around the globe events are held every March to educate the public about the health and economic consequences of TB, its effect on developing countries, and its continued tragic impact on global health. Among infectious diseases, TB remains the second leading killer of adults in the world, with more than 2 million TB-related deaths each year and continues to be the leading cause of death of people who are HIV infected.

Although the incidence of TB continues on a downward trend in Florida with 953 cases for 2008, more can still be done. Every healthcare provider that considers TB in a provisional diagnosis, every person that completes treatment after diagnosis and every person that seeks evaluation after an exposure are all doing their part to stop the spread of this devastating disease. Everyone can do something to stop TB and every action counts!

If you'd like more information regarding local TB services in Alachua County, please contact the TB Clinic of the Alachua County Health Department at 334-8861. TB Elimination: Now is the Time!




**Alachua County
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www.alachuacountyhealth.org


**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH**

HIV UPDATE

By: Rick Trachsel, Surveillance



Area 3/13 HIV cases – Jan-Mar 2009= 26
Area 3/13 AIDS cases – Jan-Mar 2009=30

Jan-Mar 2008=110 (large backlog from 2007)
Jan-Mar 2008=117 (large backlog from 2007)

So far, six exposed infants were born in 2009 from Area 3/13; 22 were born in 2008 (4 seroreverted).

In other news, the Counseling & Testing section, along with the Minority Outreach section, have been active with night clinics. The last one was February 11 at the Student Health Center. Testing was provided to 155, no HIV cases, but 6 Chlamydia cases were identified. There are more night clinics on the horizon. Efforts are being made to set a mobile testing site with local night clubs, beginning with the University Club. In addition, the OraQuick test (results in 20 minutes) is now available during the Tuesday & Thursday STD clinics (sliding scale fees apply).

The Minority Outreach section has also been busy with the National Black HIV Awareness Month with over a dozen local churches participating in the 'National Week of Prayer', along with Condom Miranda presentations at UF and Santa Fe College. March is National Women's HIV Awareness Month and activities are in full swing.

Finally, it is not too early to plan for the XVIII (yes, 18th) Keeping the Pace Conference. It will held at the Hilton at UF (SW 34th ST) on Wednesday, August 26th. This is Florida's premier one-day conference to bring you up to date with AIDS World.

Florida Department of Health on Good Hygiene during Peak Flu Season

TALLAHASSEE – The Florida Department of Health (DOH) encourages Floridians to practice good

From: DOH Communications Office

hygiene as influenza (flu) activity in Florida increases, which is typical for this time of year. In Florida, the disease usually peaks in late January or February and continues through March. In the United States, influenza results in approximately 200,000 hospitalizations each year. Annually, over 36,000 people in the U.S. die from the flu, and most of these are age 65 or older. More people die from flu than from any other vaccine-preventable disease. "Floridians must remain vigilant in protecting themselves and their loved ones against the flu, especially populations who are more susceptible to the disease" said State Surgeon General Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H. "Good health practices such as staying home when ill, washing hands and covering a cough are so important in keeping family, friends and coworkers healthy."

Individuals can reduce their chance of contracting or spreading respiratory infections by:

- Staying home when sick and keeping sick children home
- Cleaning hands often with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand cleanser
- Not touching eyes, nose or mouth
- Avoiding close contact with people who are ill, if possible
- Not sharing eating utensils, drinking glasses, towels or other personal items
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Getting plenty of rest, healthy foods, fluids and exercise

It is not too late to get a flu shot this season. Parents and caregivers can contribute to the safety and well-being of children by having them immunized. It is also important that adults, parents and grandparents who are in close contact with young children be immunized as well.

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for the following groups:

- Persons at high risk for influenza-related complications and severe disease, including
 1. Children aged 6-59 months
 2. Pregnant women
 3. Persons 50 years or older
 4. Persons of any age with certain chronic medical conditions
- Persons who live with, or care for, persons at high risk
- Health-care workers

In addition, immunization with the vaccine against *Streptococcus pneumoniae* – the pneumonia vaccine – can help prevent complications of influenza in those who are candidates for this vaccine.

Consult your doctor to determine if either or both of these vaccinations is an option for you. Individuals with influenza-like symptoms should contact a primary care physician for advice about management of their illness.

DOH promotes, protects and improves the health of all people in Florida. For more information about the flu, visit www.doh.state.fl.us/Disease_ctrl/immune/flu/index.htm or www.cdc.gov/flu.

Update: Influenza Activity in Alachua County

By: Isabel Anasco, RN Epidemiology /Hepatitis Coordinator

The ACHD Epidemiology Department gathers influenza surveillance data from volunteer sentinel physicians/clinics, influenza lab reports from our local hospitals, and school absenteeism rates. Each week an activity code is reported to the state. There are five possible categories: No activity, Sporadic, Localized, and Widespread. Widespread has been reported for Florida for the reporting week 7 (February 15 – February 21, 2008). Alachua County reported Localized. At this time, more influenza B (Malaysia) viruses have been identified in Alachua County. The influenza lab reports are reported from the DOH Jacksonville laboratory.

Special thanks to Norisse Tellman, MPH student from UF who is the Influenza Surveillance Assistant for her diligence in gathering information every week.

FLORIDA REPORTABLE DISEASES *Alachua County 2 year activity*

Disease Activity	2009 Jan-Feb	2008 Jan-Feb	2008 Jan-Dec	Disease Activity	cont'd	2009 Jan-Feb	2008 Jan-Feb	2008 Jan-Dec
AIDS	7	17	35	Lyme Disease (06959)		0	0	2
Animal Bites to Humans (07101)	8	1	33	Lymphogranuloma Venereum		0	0	0
Anthrax	0	0	0	Malaria (08460)		0	1	3
Botulism	0	0	0	Measles (05590)		0	0	0
Brucellosis	0	0	0	Meningitis, Group B Strep (32040)		0	0	0
Campylobacteriosis (03840)	2	3	28	Meningitis other (32090)		0	1	2
Chancroid	0	0	0	Meningitis Strep Pneumoniae (32020)		0	0	0
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	284	307	1731	Meningococcal (<i>Neisseria Meningitidis</i>) (03630)		0	1	1
Cholera	0	0	0	Mercury Poisoning		0	0	1
Ciguatera	0	0	0	Mumps		0	0	0
Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD)	0	0	0	Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning		0	0	0
Cryptosporidiosis (13680)	1	1	13	Pertussis (03390)		6	0	8
Cyclosporiasis (00720)	0	0	1	Pesticide-Related Illness or Injury		0	0	0
Dengue (06100)	0	1	0	Plague		0	0	0
Diphtheria	0	0	0	Poliomyelitis		0	0	0
Ehrlichiosis, Human Monocytic (08382)	0	2	4	Psittacosis		0	0	0
Encephalitis	0	0	0	Q fever		0	0	0
Eastern Equine	0	0	0	Rabies Animal (07102)		2	0	3
Non-arboviral	0	0	0	Ricin Toxin		0	0	0
Other arboviral	0	0	0	Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (08200)		0	0	2
St. Louis	0	0	0	Rubella		0	0	0
Venezuelan Equine	0	0	0	SARS		0	0	0
West Nile	0	0	0	Salmonellosis (00300)		8	7	82
Western Equine	0	0	0	Saxitoxin poisoning psp		0	0	0
<i>E.coli</i> 0157:H7 (41601)	0	0	0	Shigellosis (00490)		0	0	1
<i>E.coli</i> , Other (41603)	0	0	0	Smallpox		0	0	0
Epsilon toxin of <i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	0	0	0	<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> , VRSA		0	0	0
Giardiasis (acute) (00710)	1	4	13	<i>Staphylococcus enterotoxin B</i>		0	0	0
Glanders	0	0	0	Streptococcal Disease grp A inva (03400)		0	0	0
Gonorrhea	58	111	552	<i>Strep pneumoniae</i> invasive Disease, Drug resistant (04823)		1	2	7
Granuloma Inguinale	0	0	0	<i>Strept pneumoniae</i> invasive Disease, susceptible (04830)		2	4	14
H. Influenzae Pneumonia (48220)	0	2	0	Syphilis		5	4	15
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> , inv disease	1	0	1	Syphilis in pregnant women & neonates		0	0	0
Hansen's Disease (Leprosy)	0	0	0	Tetanus		0	0	0
Hantavirus infection	0	0	0	Toxoplasmosis (acute)		1	0	0
Hemolytic Uremic Syndrome	0	0	0	Trichinosis		0	0	0
Hepatitis A	0	1	2	Tuberculosis		0	2	9
Hepatitis B (+HBsAG in preg women or child < 24 months (07039)	5	3	10	Tularemia		0	0	0
Hepatitis B Perinatal (07744)	0	0	0	Typhoid Fever		1	0	1
Hepatitis B Acute (07030)	0	0	1	Typhus Fever		0	0	0
Hepatitis B Chronic (07032)	24	8	74	Typhus Fever Epidemic		0	0	0
Hepatitis C Chronic (07054)	59	41	254	Vaccinia Disease		0	0	0
Hepatitis, Other	0	0	0	Varicella ((05290)		2	6	57
Herpes Simplex Virus in < 6mo of age	0	0	0	<i>Vibrio</i> Infection		0	0	0
HIV	10	12	59	<i>V. cholerae</i> Serogroup 01/ non 01		0	0	0
Human Papillomavirus (HPV) <12 yrs	0	0	0	Viral Hemorrhagic Fever		0	0	0
Lead Poisoning (94890)	0	1	3	Yellow Fever		0	0	0
Legionellosis (48280)	0	0	0					
Leptospirosis	0	0	0					
Listeriosis (02700)	0	0	0					

Any disease outbreak (e.g., in the community, hospital, or other institution; or foodborne or waterborne) presence of a disease outbreak. All cases suspected and confirmed are included in this report. Any grouping or clustering of patients having similar diseases, symptoms or syndromes that may indicate the

Increase Of Syphilis and HIV Infection in Young Black MSM

By: **Marie Jean-Baptiste**

Disease Intervention Specialist

The STD department has noticed an increase in the number of syphilis and HIV infections in Alachua County, mainly among young black men who have sex with men (MSM).

Since January, the reported cases of primary syphilis and HIV in young black MSMs were four times greater than the cases reported in young white MSMs. In the group of young black MSMs, some clients reported having as many as 6 (or more) sexual contacts during a period of 12 months. In Florida, young black MSMs account for a full 42% of all young MSM HIV/AIDS cases while only 25% of all MSM HIV/AIDS cases are > 26 years of age.

What may be more alarming than this statistic is the fact that we're noticing an increased incidence of Syphilis and HIV in young black MSMs who attend the University of Florida. The same problem has also been identified at other institutions, e.g. Florida State University and Florida A & M University. These students are also engaging in sexual acts with women without disclosing their involvement with men. Most of the men are using online dating sites such as Black Gay Chat, Adam4Adam.com, and even Facebook to meet other men for discreet relationships. These sites are visited by people all over the state, all over the world. This might explain how these infections even got on campus-- the students unknowingly bring the infections with them from their home regions.

According to the CDC, "While the health problems caused by syphilis in adults are serious in their own right, it is now known that the genital sores caused by syphilis in adults also make it easier to transmit and acquire HIV infection sexually." There is an estimated 2-5 fold increased risk of getting HIV if exposed to that infection when syphilis is present.

The STD staff has a public health obligation to intervene in the spread of sexually transmitted infections. We are working diligently to prevent the spread of these diseases by treating those who are infected and offering testing and preventive treatment to those who have been exposed.